

of the corporation having any of the authority of the board of directors of the corporation; and

“(3) at the principal office of the corporation, a record of the names and addresses of the members of the corporation entitled to vote on matters relating to the corporation.

“(b) INSPECTION.—A member entitled to vote on any matter relating to the corporation, or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect the records of the corporation for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

“§ 140409. Service of process

“The corporation shall comply with the law on service of process of each State in which it is incorporated and each State in which it carries on activities.

“§ 140410. Liability for acts of officers and agents

“The corporation is liable for any act of any officer or agent of the corporation acting within the scope of the authority of the corporation.

“§ 140411. Annual report

“The corporation shall submit to Congress an annual report on the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 10101(b) of this title. The report may not be printed as a public document.

“§ 140412. Definition

“In this chapter, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 1403 the following new item:

“1404. Military Officers Association of America 140401”.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of S. 832, a bill to grant a federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America. My colleague WALTER JONES and I joined with 140 cosponsors to introduce the House companion, H.R. 2017.

S. 832 recognizes the dedication, service and accomplishments of military officers and their families, and the enduring contribution of MOAA to the military and veterans' communities, and the nation.

I want to thank Senators BILL NELSON and BOB CORKER for their hard work in helping successfully report the Senate bill.

MOAA has been seeking a federal charter for 15 years. Despite bipartisan and bicameral support, the bill had never previously received a floor vote in either chamber.

MOAA serves a membership of 370,000 active, reserve and retired officers and their spouses in every branch of the military.

The variety of services MOAA provides includes:

The MOAA Scholarship Fund, which provides interest-free loans and grants to students of military families;

Supplemental health insurance; and

Personalized career transition assistance services for members and spouses;

The Military Officers Association has had a distinguished record of protecting and improving earned compensation and benefits for the entire military and veterans' community. Thanks to the support of Members of this Body and our colleagues in the Senate, MOAA has led efforts that resulted in enactment of major legislative accomplishments including:

TRICARE for Life, landmark legislation that provides lifetime government-sponsored health coverage for military retirees and their family members;

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, which provides cost-free education at any public college or university in the country for the current generation of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans;

Elimination of a dollar-for-dollar offset to military retired pay for retirees with VA service-connected disabilities of 50% to 100%;

Access to continuous TRICARE health coverage for currently serving National Guard and Reserve families and for reservists who qualify for reserve retirement but are not yet in receipt of reserve retired pay at age 60;

Elimination of financial penalties for retired regular officers who pursue second careers in the Federal civil service; and

Upgrades in compensation and transition services for severely wounded warriors, their families and the survivors of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.

MOAA serves a vital role in helping inform and shape public policy on national defense matters and by ensuring that the needs of the entire active duty, National Guard and Reserves, military retirees, survivors, veterans and their family members are given voice in the public forum.

I want to also congratulate MOAA for being recognized by “The Hill” newspaper for the third year in a row as the top advocacy organization representing veterans.

MOAA has long tradition of servant-leadership to the entire military and veterans community. The Association provides a variety of services not only to its members but to military men and women of all ranks and to veterans.

I am pleased to recommend a Federal Charter be granted to the Military Officers Association of America and ask for unanimous consent that S. 832 be passed.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1298

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1298.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

WELCOMING HIS ALL HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE, NEW ROME, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 838) welcoming to the United States and to Washington, DC, His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch on his upcoming trip on October 20, 2009, through November 6, 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 838

Welcoming to the United States and to Washington, DC, His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch on his upcoming trip on October 20, 2009, through November 6, 2009.

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is head of the largest Christian denomination headquartered in the Muslim world and convener of an ecumenical meeting which produced the first condemnation by Muslim religious leaders of the 9/11 attack on the United States as an anti-religious act;

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second largest Christian church;

Whereas within the 2,000-year-old Sacred See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the New Testament was codified and the Nicene Creed was created;

Whereas the disappearance of the See would mean the end of a crucial link between the Christian and the Muslim world since the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey is a living testimony of religious co-existence since 1453;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received on his first official visit to the United States in 1997, the Congressional Gold Medal, presented by the United States on behalf of the Congress in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace, and was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for a very small number of world leaders;

Whereas the legislation bestowing the Congressional Gold Medal on Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had one of the highest numbers of Members of the United States House of Representatives cosponsoring it in Congressional history;

Whereas His All Holiness is one of the few living persons to have been awarded the highest Congressional honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, which has been bestowed only on the most eminent individuals, such as George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Pope John Paul II;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized in the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world peace, greater religious understanding, and respect for the Earth's environment;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew was selected by Time Magazine as number 11 among 2008's 100 most influential people in the world;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew enhanced greater religious understanding by initiating a joint declaration that it is man's duty to protect the earth, signed by himself and Pope John Paul II, the spiritual leaders of nearly 1 out of every 5 people in the world;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is called "the Green Patriarch" by leaders of the international environmental community;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the prestigious Sophie Prize of Norway for his environmental work;

Whereas the prize money was donated by His All Holiness to UNICEF's fund for destitute children and for environmental projects;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has led symposia of international environmental leaders regarding the Adriatic, Aegean, Arctic, Baltic, and Black Seas, as well as the Amazon, Danube, and Mississippi Rivers, and His All Holiness was honored in New York through the Scenic Hudson River Initiative;

Whereas the Religious, Science, and Environmental (RSE) symposia are organized under the auspices of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who originally conceived the movement in 1988 at a meeting of environmental and religious leaders for the purpose of establishing common ground on environmental issues between representatives of faith communities, scientists, and environmental nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas patrons of past symposia have included Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Jacques Santer and Romano Prodi, former Presidents of the European Commission; and Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General;

Whereas the symposia have also reached out across different faiths and denominations, revealing the wisdom of diverse theological traditions, as well as a common imperative to protect the natural world;

Whereas during the 2002 Adriatic Sea Symposium, Pope John Paul II and Patriarch Bartholomew signed a joint declaration underlining the spiritual duty of caring for God's creation in the interest of future generations; and

Whereas the outstanding accomplishments of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew have been formally recognized and honored by numerous governmental, academic, and other institutions around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes to the United States and to Washington, DC, His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch, and recognizes the importance to the United States and the world of the Ecumenical Patriarch's recent environmental seminar conducted on the Mississippi River with some of the world's leading environment experts;

(2) recognizes the importance to the United States and to the world of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's leadership on matters of environment, peace, and religion, and encourages United States foreign policy makers to continue to urge Turkey to grant religious freedom and property rights to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as to reopen the theological school at Halki; and

(3) expresses its support for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's noble efforts for the betterment of humankind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gen-

tlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a leading voice in the Congress on issues concerning the Ecumenical Patriarch, for introducing this resolution.

We are all pleased to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world, to the United States and to our Nation's Capital. Elected as the 270th Archbishop of the historic throne of Constantinople, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom, Muslim-Christian dialogue and international environmental protection.

Known as the Bridge Builder and the Patriarch of Peace, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has provided hope to those who have survived under Communist oppression and has also traveled throughout the Muslim world, advocating for religious tolerance and understanding.

Sitting at the crossroads between East and West, the Ecumenical Patriarchate itself is a testament to half a millennium of Christian-Muslim coexistence. In fact, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has strived to communicate his message of tolerance and understanding directly to millions of Muslims around the world.

Another important theme of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's has been environmental protection which has earned him the title of Green Patriarch. It is fitting then that the Ecumenical Patriarch began his visit to the United States in New Orleans and convened a symposium on the environmental health of the Mississippi River.

This marks the eighth environmental symposium Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has held since 1995. In 2002, at the Adriatic Sea Symposium, Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew signed a historic joint declaration, underlining the spiritual duty of caring for God's creation in the interest of future generations.

Madam Speaker, while I am pleased that we've come here today and expressed our strong support for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his leadership on many important

issues, we must also remember that the Patriarchate itself operates under numerous onerous restrictions imposed by the Government of Turkey, the country where the Patriarchate is located. The Patriarchate's property rights, its freedom to open religious schools and other issues of religious freedom must be properly addressed by the Turkish Government. Indeed, the very future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is endangered by the Turkish requirement that the Ecumenical Patriarch be a natural-born citizen of Turkey. As the Greek Orthodox population of Turkey has dwindled to less than 3,000 persons, the pool of potential future Ecumenical Patriarchs has virtually dried up. This archaic requirement that the Patriarch be a natural-born Turkish citizen was born in the difficult post-World War I environment in which the modern Republic of Turkey was created. It is certainly unworthy of the self-confident regional power that Turkey has become, and we call on Turkey to end this requirement, and end it now, before it strangles the Patriarchate.

I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch and honoring all he has done to promote peace, religious understanding and the protection of our environment. I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to do likewise.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased and honored to yield such time as he may consume to my good friend from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), an esteemed member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs and the author of this important resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to offer House Resolution 838, as amended, which welcomes His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch, as he visits the United States. I would like to recognize Foreign Affairs Committee Chair BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for working with me to move this important resolution to the House floor expeditiously.

Consideration of this resolution underscores the importance and demonstrates Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's relevance in the world as a spiritual leader, the leader of nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians right here in the United States.

I was blessed to have been raised in the Greek Orthodox Church. As a child, I served as an altar boy in St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Tarpon Springs, Florida, as do three of my sons today.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 273rd successor of the founder of the Eastern Orthodox Church, St. Andrew the Apostle. Madam Speaker, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew must

ensure that the faith in the Holy See endures. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second-largest Christian church located in Istanbul, Turkey.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation among all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews and Muslims. In fact, His All Holiness convened an ecumenical meeting which produced the first condemnation by Muslim leaders of the 9/11 attack on the United States as an anti-religious act, an accomplishment that has yet to be repeated by any other world or religious leader. Indeed, His All Holiness was the second living person in U.S. history allowed to be honored in the United States Capitol Rotunda as a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest congressional honor, previously bestowed on such historic figures as George Washington, Pope John Paul II and Winston Churchill.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was honored by Time magazine in its selection of His All Holiness as number 11 among 2008's 100 most influential people in the world. He has been recognized in the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world peace, greater religious understanding and respect for the Earth's environment.

This resolution also recognizes the need for religious freedom and property rights to be granted to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as the need for the theological school at Halki to be reopened, both of which deserve our full support.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the importance of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to the United States and his work on behalf of world peace, the environment and religious freedom.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE).

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 838, welcoming to the United States His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome. This visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch is a significant occasion for Orthodox Christians, Greek Americans and all Americans in general.

As a Greek American and as an Orthodox Christian myself, I am humbled by the visit of the leader of my church who is renowned for his work on peace and religious understanding and tolerance around the world. Patriarch Bartholomew has also distinguished himself by working diligently to bring attention to our environment, calling his followers to take heed of their physical and spiritual impact on this Earth.

All of us have been fortunate to live our lives and raise our families in a nation where we are free to worship and we can seek the spiritual guidance of our church leaders without fear. In too many places in the world, this is not possible.

I would like to thank my colleague from Missouri for his reference to the Government of Turkey and would, by these remarks, appeal upon the State of Turkey to embrace a sense of religious tolerance that has, regrettably, been missing. As one of over 300 million who follow the Orthodox faith, I look to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for spiritual guidance and leadership, and it fills me with great pride to welcome His Holiness to the United States.

I would like to thank my colleague and good friend from the State of Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for introducing this resolution, and I am honored to be an original cosponsor. As a member of the Orthodox Church, as a Greek American, as a proud Member of this Congress, I strongly urge support for this resolution.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in support of this important resolution put forth by my good friend from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS). I thank him for his leadership.

This resolution welcomes the Ecumenical Patriarch on his visit to the United States, which is coming up this November. Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader for over 300 million Orthodox believers around the world, millions of whom live right here in the United States.

As the leader of the oldest and second largest church in the world, the Patriarch has been an inspirational advocate for peace and religious tolerance. In fact, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has been an iconic symbol for religious co-existence since 1453, when the Muslim ruler and the Patriarch at that time signed an accord for the continuation of the Orthodox Church in what became a predominantly Muslim country.

Today, Patriarch Bartholomew continues to reach out to leaders of various religious faiths to encourage dialogue and understanding. In fact, following the horrendous attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, Patriarch Bartholomew convened an interfaith conference with representatives from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim religions—a conference that resulted in the first condemnation by Muslim leaders of those terrorist attacks. Patriarch Bartholomew has also been a global leader in efforts to protect our environment. He has sponsored symposia with international environmental leaders on initiatives to protect our clean oceans and to protect our rivers.

Despite his many contributions and the commitment to peace and understanding, the Ecumenical Patriarch continues to endure restrictions imposed by the Turkish Government. The prohibitions on the Patriarchate's right to own property and its right to determine for itself the requirements

for Patriarchal succession must end. The closing of the theological school in Halki must be reversed. Such actions restrict the religious freedom of millions of Orthodox believers, and they threaten the future of the Patriarchate, itself.

I am pleased that this resolution clearly states the need for the lifting of these bureaucratic restrictions on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and on the occasion of the Patriarch's visit to the United States, we again call on the Turkish Government to end them.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 838. It is, indeed, a privilege to join with my colleagues in welcoming to the United States and honoring His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome.

I want to thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for his leadership in developing this resolution.

As Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness is the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. Orthodox Christians constitute the second largest Christian domination in the world, numbering some 300 million. From the Phanar, located in modern day Istanbul, the Ecumenical Patriarch has challenged all of us through his unparalleled work in interfaith dialogue to respect each other's faiths and cultures.

He is a true messenger of peace and justice. Each day, the Ecumenical Patriarch reminds us through his good deeds and good words that we must reach beyond the value of material goods and look at one another as the brethren of a single family. The role of pastor to the world, the Ecumenical role of His All Holiness arises from the fact that he is the successor of the Apostle Andrew, who established the church in Rome's eastern provinces while his brother, Peter, established the church in Rome.

Unfortunately, while the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul is more than 1,700 years in existence, today, its survival is threatened because of the continued denial of religious freedom and human rights that is perpetuated by the government of the Republic of Turkey. The plight of this ancient and noble religious center exemplifies the ongoing struggle for international religious freedom that so many people of so many faiths continue to endure.

The United States must call upon its ally Turkey to restore the full rights of the Patriarchate, including property rights, and to reopen the Halki Theological Seminary.

I am particularly drawn to the Patriarch's efforts to promote environmentalism. He has been called the Green Patriarch for his powerful

commitment to restoring our planet. He initiated a joint declaration that it is man's duty to protect the Earth, signed by himself and Pope John Paul—the spiritual leaders of nearly one out of every five people in the world.

The moral force of his message is unassailable. Humankind must ensure that it exists in a world where there is fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink and pure soil from which to harvest our food. From the Phanar, the Ecumenical Patriarch has inspired millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people of all faiths with his call upon humanity to honor its responsibility as a steward of the Earth's natural bounty.

We are so privileged to have Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in the United States and to honor him for his continuing efforts to achieve a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 838, a bill to welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, to the United States and to Washington, DC.

As the spiritual leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized here and abroad for his leadership in the quest for world peace, for his work to promote responsible stewardship of the environment and for his global efforts to spread religious tolerance.

In addition to receiving the 1997 Congressional Gold Medal and the Sophie Prize of Norway for managing to raise the environmental awareness of 300 million members of the Orthodox Churches, His Holiness was recognized in 2008 by Time Magazine as one of the world's most influential people. Time Magazine said His Holiness was recognized for his successful efforts to "stake out a clear moral and spiritual vision that is dominated by his concern for the environment."

I am proud to stand in recognition of the pioneering efforts of His Holiness in linking faith to the environment, for his tireless efforts to promote justice and human rights and for his global spiritual leadership.

I welcome His Holiness to the United States and urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time on this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 838, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ENCOURAGING IRAN TO REUNITE JOSHUA FATTAL, SHANE BAUER, AND SARAH SHOURD WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 45) encouraging the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas on July 31, 2009, officials of the Government of Iran took 3 United States citizens, Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd, into custody near the Ahmed Awa region of northern Iraq, after the 3 United States citizens reportedly crossed into the territory of Iran while hiking in Iraq;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have confirmed that they are holding the 3 United States citizens; and

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have allowed consular access by the Embassy of the Government of Switzerland (in its formal capacity as the representative of the interests of the United States in Iran) to the 3 young United States citizens in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to communicate by telephone with their families in the United States; and

(2) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 45, a resolution encouraging the Government of Iran to allow the American prisoners Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

On July 31, 2009, these three American hikers were taken into custody by

Iranian officials near northern Iraq. They were seized because the Iranians said they had crossed into Iranian territory while on a hike in a rural region near the Iraq-Iran border.

The three hikers certainly had no malicious or devious intentions. The area they were hiking through, part of Iraqi Kurdistan, is mountainous but not obscure. In fact, it is becoming increasingly popular with tourists. If the three Americans did, indeed, cross into Iranian territory, they almost certainly did so unknowingly and unintentionally.

At the time of her capture, 31-year old Sarah Shourd was teaching English in Damascus, Syria, where she was living with her boyfriend, Shane Bauer—a writer and photojournalist. Their friend and fellow University of California—Berkeley alumnus, Joshua Fattal, was traveling with them in Iraqi Kurdistan. Their adventure in Iraq turned into a nightmare when they were seized by the Iranians.

This important resolution calls on the Government of Iran to provide these three innocent, young Americans, at a minimum, the opportunity to speak with their families by phone. It also encourages the Government of Iran to free them so they can be reunited with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

Of course, Joshua, Shane and Sarah are not the only Americans currently being held in Iran. The Iranian-American scholar, Kian Tajbakhsh—an urban planner with a doctorate from Columbia University—was arrested in July, and was sentenced last week to 15-years' imprisonment for his involvement in the peaceful demonstrations that followed the July 12 election fraud.

Another Iranian-American, 71-year old Reza Taghavi, has been imprisoned since May 2008 without a trial or formal charges.

In April, this body passed House Concurrent Resolution 36, regarding the case of the former FBI agent, Robert Levinson, who has been missing in Iran since 2007.

As the United States and the international community engage Iran on its nuclear weapons program, we must not forget the plight of these innocent Americans. I commend Undersecretary of State William Burns for raising this issue with his Iranian counterpart at the October 1 Geneva meeting. I encourage him to continue to do so at all subsequent meetings with Iranian officials until our fellow citizens are freed.

A New York Times editorial this past Saturday said it well, entitled "More Iranian Injustice." The editorial called for the immediate release of the imprisoned Americans, and it went on to read, "Iran may sit at the negotiating table with the United States and other world powers, but it will never earn the respect it craves if it continues these kinds of human rights abuses."

I commend Senator ARLEN SPECTER for introducing this timely resolution